

MODIFICATIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION**SCHOLARSHIPS**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill makes adjustments to the New Century Scholarship and the Regents' Scholarship.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ changes the eligible courses of study for New Century Scholarship applicants;
- ▶ changes the day on which requirements must be completed for a New Century Scholarship;
- ▶ changes the type of higher education institution at which a student may use the scholarships;
- ▶ provides transition provisions for certain changes;
- ▶ requires a New Century Scholarship holder to enroll in college full time by the fall term immediately following graduation;
- ▶ gives the State Board of Regents authority to impose application deadlines for the scholarships;
- ▶ provides that a student may not receive both a New Century Scholarship and a Regents' Scholarship; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53B-8-105, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 329

32 **53B-8-108**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 329

33 **53B-8-109**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 329

34 **53B-8-111**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 329

35

36 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

37 Section 1. Section **53B-8-105** is amended to read:

38 **53B-8-105. New Century Scholarships -- High school requirements.**

39 (1) (a) The State Board of Regents shall award New Century Scholarships.

40 (b) In order to qualify for a New Century Scholarship, a student in Utah schools whose
41 class graduates from high school in 2011 or before shall complete the requirements for an:

42 (i) associate degree; or

43 (ii) approved math and science curriculum.

44 (c) The requirements under Subsection (1)(b) shall be completed:

45 (i) by September 1 of the year the student's class graduates from high school; and

46 (ii) with at least a [~~"B" average or~~] 3.0 grade point average.

47 ~~[(d) The State Board of Regents shall develop and approve the math and science~~
48 ~~curriculum described under Subsection (1)(b)(ii).]~~

49 (d) In order to qualify for a New Century Scholarship, a student in Utah schools whose
50 class graduates from high school in 2012 or after shall complete the requirements for an
51 associate degree:

52 (i) by the day on which the student's class graduates from high school; and

53 (ii) with at least a 3.0 grade point average.

54 (e) As used in this section, "complete the requirements for an associate degree" means
55 that a student:

56 (i) (A) completes all the required courses for an associate degree from a higher
57 education institution within the state system of higher education that offers associate degrees;
58 and

59 (B) applies for the associate degree from the institution; or

60 (ii) completes equivalent requirements described in Section (1)(e)(i)(A) from a higher
61 education institution within the state system of higher education that offers baccalaureate
62 degrees but does not offer associate degrees.

(2) (a) The scholarship may be used at a:

(i) higher education institution within the state system of higher education that offers baccalaureate programs; or

(ii) for a student whose class graduates from high school in 2011 or before, a private, nonprofit college or university in the state accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges that offers baccalaureate programs.

(b) For a student whose class graduates from high school in 2010 and who completes the requirements under Subsection (1)(b) by September 1, 2010:

(i) if used at an institution described in Subsection (2)(a)(i), the scholarship is equal in value to 75% of the tuition costs at the selected institution; or

(ii) if used at an institution described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii), the scholarship is equal in value to 75% of the tuition costs at the institution, not to exceed 75% of the average tuition costs at the institutions referred in Subsection (2)(a)(i).

(c) (i) For a student whose class graduates in 2011 or after and who completes the requirements under this section, the total scholarship is equal to \$5,000, allocated over a time period described in Subsection (2)(d), as prescribed by the board.

(ii) The board may increase the scholarship amount described in Subsection (2)(c)(i) by an amount not to exceed the average percentage tuition increase approved by the board for institutions in the state system of higher education.

(d) The scholarship is valid for the shortest of the following time periods:

(i) two years of full-time equivalent enrollment;

(ii) 60 credit hours; or

(iii) until the student meets the requirements for a baccalaureate degree.

(e) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(e)(ii)(B), a scholarship holder shall enroll full time at a higher education institution by no later than the fall term immediately following the student's high school graduation date.

~~(e)~~ (ii) (A) The ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board may grant a leave of absence to a scholarship holder, but the student may only receive scholarship monies within five years ~~[after the student completes high school]~~ of the student's high school graduation date.

(B) A scholarship holder shall receive an approved leave of absence from the board before taking a leave of absence from full-time enrollment at a higher education institution.

(3) The New Century Scholarship may be canceled at any time by the institution of attendance if the student fails to:

(a) register as a full-time student;

~~[(a)] (b) maintain [a "B" average] at least a 3.0 grade point average~~ for two consecutive semesters; or

~~[(b)] (c)~~ make reasonable progress towards the completion of a baccalaureate degree.

(4) (a) ~~[The]~~ Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall make an annual appropriation from the General Fund to the ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board for the costs associated with the New Century Scholarship program authorized under this section.

(b) It is understood that the appropriation is offset in part by the state monies that would otherwise be required and appropriated for these students if they were enrolled in a four-year postsecondary program at a state-operated institution.

(c) Notwithstanding Subsections (1) and (2), if the appropriation under Subsection (4)(a) is insufficient to cover the costs associated with the New Century Scholarship program, the ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board may ~~[limit or]~~ reduce ~~[scholarships]~~ the scholarship amount.

~~[(d) The board may adjust the amount of the New Century Scholarship by up to a percentage of the average percentage tuition increase approved by the board for institutions in the system of higher education.]~~

~~[(5) This section does not apply to a student who completes an associate of applied technology degree from the Utah College of Applied Technology.]~~

(5) The board may set deadlines for receiving New Century Scholarship applications.

(6) A student may not receive both a New Century Scholarship and a Regents' Scholarship established in Section 53B-8-108.

Section 2. Section **53B-8-108** is amended to read:

53B-8-108. Regents' Scholarship Program -- General provisions -- Board policies.

(1) The Regents' Scholarship Program is created to award merit scholarships to students who complete a rigorous core course of study in high school.

(2) (a) A student who is awarded the Base Regents' Scholarship established in Section 53B-8-109 may also be awarded each of the supplemental awards established in Sections 53B-8-110 and 53B-8-111.

(b) A student may not receive both a Regents' Scholarship and a New Century Scholarship established in Section 53B-8-105.

(3) A Regents' Scholarship may only be used at [a]:

(a) a credit-granting higher education institution within the state system of higher education; or

(b) for a student whose class graduates in 2011 or before, a private, nonprofit college or university in the state that is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

(4) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b)(ii), a scholarship holder shall enroll full time at a higher education institution described in Subsection (3) [within 12 months of the student's high school graduation] by no later than the fall term immediately following the student's high school graduation date.

(b) (i) The ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board may grant a leave of absence to a scholarship holder, but the student may only receive scholarship monies within five years [after the student completes high school] of the student's high school graduation date.

(ii) A scholarship holder shall receive an approved leave of absence from the board before taking a leave of absence from full-time enrollment at a higher education institution.

(5) (a) The board shall annually report on the Regents' Scholarship Program at the beginning of each school year to the Education Interim Committee and the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

(b) The report shall include the number of students in each school district and public high school who meet the academic criteria for the Base Regents' Scholarship and for the Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship.

(c) The State Board of Education, school districts, and public high schools shall cooperate with the ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board to facilitate the collection and distribution of Regents' Scholarship Program data.

(6) The State Board of Education shall annually provide the ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board a complete list of directory information, including student name and address, for all grade 8 students in the state.

(7) The board shall adopt policies establishing:

(a) the high school and college course requirements described in Subsection

53B-8-109(1)(d)(i);

(b) the cumulative grade point average required in Sections 53B-8-109 and 53B-8-111;

(c) the additional weights assigned to grades earned in certain courses ~~[for purposes of calculating a student's cumulative high school grade point average required]~~ described in Subsection 53B-8-109(4);

(d) the regional accrediting bodies that may accredit a private high school described in Subsection 53B-8-109(1)(a)(ii); and

(e) the application process for a Regents' Scholarship, including procedures to allow a parent or student to apply for the scholarship on-line.

(8) (a) ~~[The]~~ Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall make an annual appropriation from the Education Fund to the ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board for the costs associated with the Regents' Scholarship Program authorized under this section and Sections 53B-8-109, 53B-8-110, and 53B-8-111.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and Sections 53B-8-109, 53B-8-110, and 53B-8-111, if the appropriation under Subsection (8)(a) is insufficient to cover the costs associated with the Regents' Scholarship Program, the ~~[State Board of Regents]~~ board may ~~[limit or]~~ reduce the amount of the Base Regents' Scholarships and supplemental awards.

(9) The board may set deadlines for receiving Regents' Scholarship applications.

Section 3. Section **53B-8-109** is amended to read:

**53B-8-109. Regents' Scholarship Program -- Base Regents' Scholarship --
Qualifications -- Application.**

(1) A student qualifies for a Base Regents' Scholarship ~~[shall be awarded to a student who]~~ if the student:

(a) completes the high school graduation requirements of:

(i) a public school established by the State Board of Education and the student's school district or charter school; or

(ii) a private high school in the state that is accredited by a regional accrediting body approved by the board;

(b) completes high school with a ~~[minimum]~~ 3.0 cumulative ~~[weighted]~~ grade point average ~~[determined by the board's policies described in Subsection (4)]~~;

(c) has at least one reported ACT test score; and

(d) (i) completes the following high school or college credit in grades 9-12:

(A) four units of credit of English;

(B) four units of credit of mathematics;

(C) three and one-half units of credit of social science;

(D) three units of credit of lab-based natural science; and

(E) two units of credit of sequential world or classical language other than English; and

(ii) except as provided in Subsection (4), earns a course grade on a transcript of "C" or above in each individual course listed in Subsection (1)(d)(i).

(2) The board shall establish policies to determine specific courses that meet the requirements under Subsection (1)(d)(i).

(3) To be eligible for the scholarship, a student:

(a) shall submit an application to the board with:

(i) a copy of the student's official high school transcript; and

(ii) if applicable, a college transcript showing a college course the student has completed to meet the requirements of Subsection (1)(d);

(b) shall be a citizen of the United States or a noncitizen who is eligible to receive federal student aid; ~~and~~

(c) may not have a criminal record, with the exception of a misdemeanor traffic citation[-]; and

(d) if applicable, shall meet the application deadlines as established by the board under Subsection 53B-8-108(9).

(4) For purposes of ~~[calculating a high school student's cumulative weighted grade point average required in Subsection (1)(b)]~~ determining if a student meets the grade requirements of Subsection (1)(d)(ii), the board shall assign additional weights to grades earned in courses described in Subsection (1)(d)(i) that are advanced placement or concurrent enrollment courses.

(5) (a) The amount of the Base Regents' Scholarship is \$1,000.

(b) The board may adjust the amount of the Base Regents' Scholarship by up to a percentage of the average percentage tuition increase approved by the board for institutions in the system of higher education.

Section 4. Section **53B-8-111** is amended to read:

**53B-8-111. Supplemental scholarship award -- Exemplary academic achievement
-- Regents' diploma.**

(1) A student who qualifies for the Base Regents' Scholarship in accordance with the provisions of Section 53B-8-109 shall be awarded an additional Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship if the student:

(a) completes high school with a cumulative [weighted] grade point average of 3.5 or higher~~[, as determined by the board's policies described in Subsection 53B-8-109(4)]~~;

(b) completes the course of study described in Subsection 53B-8-109(1)(d)(i) with no course grade on a transcript lower than a "B"; and

(c) (i) scores a composite ACT score of 26 or higher; and

(ii) if determined by the board's policies, achieves additional ACT college readiness benchmark scores in English, mathematics, reading, and science.

(2) For a student who graduates from high school in the 2009-10 school year:

(a) if used at a higher education institution described in Subsection 53B-8-108(3)(a), an Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship is equal in value to 75% of the tuition costs at the selected institution; or

(b) if used at a higher education institution described in Subsection 53B-8-108(3)(b), an Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship is equal in value to 75% of the tuition costs at the institution, not to exceed 75% of the average tuition costs at the institutions described in Subsection 53B-8-108(3)(a).

(3) (a) For a student who graduates from high school in or after the 2010-11 school year, the total Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship is equal to \$5,000, allocated over a time period described in Subsection (4), as prescribed by the board.

(b) The board may adjust the amount of the Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship by up to a percentage of the average percentage tuition increase approved by the board for institutions in the state system of higher education.

(4) An Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship is valid for the shortest of the following time periods:

(a) two years of full-time equivalent enrollment;

(b) 65 credit hours; or

(c) until the student meets the requirements for a baccalaureate degree.

(5) (a) The board may grant a leave of absence to an Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship holder, but the student may only receive scholarship monies within five years ~~[after the student completes high school]~~ of the student's high school graduation date.

(b) A scholarship holder shall receive an approved leave of absence from the board before taking a leave of absence from full-time enrollment at a higher education institution.

(6) An Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship may be canceled at any time by the institution of attendance if the student fails to:

(a) register as a full-time student;

(b) maintain a [~~"B"~~] 3.0 grade point average for two consecutive semesters; or

(c) make reasonable progress towards the completion of a baccalaureate degree.

(7) A student who qualifies for the Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship under this section may also receive a Regents' Diploma Endorsement to be issued by the board.

~~[(8) The board may adjust the amount of the Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship by up to a percentage of the average percentage tuition increase approved by the board for institutions in the system of higher education.]~~